
FINDINGS

Findings of Commission adopted by resolution:

On February 11, 2008, the Commission met as part of the Emerging Issues Forum entitled "North Carolina's Energy Futures." One of the invited speakers at the Commission was Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Nobel Prize Winner and Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Following Dr. Pachauri's presentation, the Commission adopted by resolution the following findings:

- 1. Climate change is real.**
- 2. Human activity is a factor in that change.**
- 3. The Commission should move forward to address the issues faced by the State.**

Endorsement of Findings by the U.S. Global Change Research Program:

The Commission generally endorses the following findings contained in the U.S. Global Change Research Program's 2009 publication "*Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States*," as follows:³⁴

Key findings:³⁵

- 1. Climate changes are underway in the United States and are projected to grow.**
 - a. Climate-related changes are already observed in the United States and its coastal waters. These include increases in heavy downpours, rising temperature and sea level, retreating glaciers, thawing permafrost, lengthening growing seasons, lengthening ice-free seasons in the ocean and on lakes and rivers, earlier snowmelt, and alterations in river flows.
 - b. These changes are projected to grow.
- 2. Widespread climate-related impacts are occurring now and are expected to increase.**
 - a. Climate changes are already affecting water, energy, transportation, agriculture, ecosystems, and health.
 - b. These impacts are different from region to region and will grow under projected climate change.

³⁴ Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States. Thomas R. Karl, Jerry M. Melillo, and Thomas C. Peterson, (eds.). Cambridge University Press, 2009. Online: www.globalchange.gov/usimpacts.

³⁵ Id at 13. The U.S. Global Change Research Program made 10 key findings, 8 of which have been endorsed by this Commission. This Commission did not adopt key findings #1(Global warming is unequivocal and primarily human-induced) and #10 (Future climate change and its impacts depend on choices made today) because this Commission had previously adopted findings on climate change and its relationship to human activity.